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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Lutz BIEDERMANN et al.

Serial No.: 10/763,431

Filing Date: January 22, 2004

For: BONE SCREW

Examiner: David Owen Reip

Group Art Unit: 3731

**STATUS INQUIRY**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

On July 9, 2004, applicants filed a request for declaration of an interference between this application and co-pending application Serial No. 10/091,068. Thereafter, applicants filed information disclosure statements on July 19 and October 5, 2004.

Applicants respectfully inquire as to when they might receive the first Action on the merits of this application or, preferably, a notice that the Office has declared the requested interference. Applicants note with appreciation that Examiner Reip has taken charge of this application and look forward to taking whatever steps the Examiner deems necessary to expedite consideration of this application. If there is anything the undersigned can do to expedite the prosecution of the application, the Examiner should telephone him at the telephone number given below.

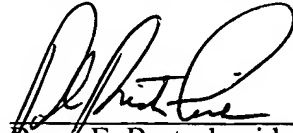
In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge

the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to  
**Deposit Account No. 03-1952, referencing Docket No. 564682000100.**

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 8, 2005

By:



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